

## INFORMATION REPORT - INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. Frontier Troop Otryad [redacted] was stationed in Belogradchik (N 43-38, E 22-41), at least until April 1952. The Otryad barracks were located in the northern part of the city, on the far side of the Aleksandrovo highway. The area was enclosed by a stone wall 1.5 meters high on the side facing the highway and by a barbed wire fence on the other sides. 25X1
2. The otryad occupied eight buildings. The largest one, a 3-story structure 150 x 60 meters in size, had a dining room on the first floor, sleeping quarters on the second floor, and the headquarters offices on the third floor. Fifty meters northwest of this building a 1-story building 70 x 30 meters in size was located. Next to it was a 2-story building 45 x 20 meters in size which was used as a dispensary and hospital. Sixty meters further northwest was the weapons depot, a building 60 x 20 meters in size. Southwest of this was the bakery, and 25 meters southwest of the bakery a few buildings used as kitchens were located.
3. The otryad was composed of 1,000 troops, divided into two battalions, as follows:
  - a. The 1 Battalion was composed of seven companies, the first six of which had two platoons each; the 4, 5, and 6 companies were rifle companies, and the 7 company was the heavy machine gun company; and
  - b. The 2 Battalion included a heavy and a light mortar company.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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4. The otryad armaments consisted of rifles, machine guns, mortars, and hand grenades. Training consisted of weapons familiarization, political lectures, border service, and ambush. Field training, in either the morning or the afternoon, was conducted daily at a place called "Rabishko Ezero" (N 43-44, E 22-36). [ ] a member of the 7 Heavy Machine Gun Company of the 1 Battalion [ ] was trained in the use of rifles, Maksim Sokolov heavy machine guns, defensive hand grenades, and attack hand grenades.

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6. The headquarters of Frontier Troop Otryad [ ] located in Kula on the Rakovitsa (N 42-46, E 22-29) - Boynitsa (N 43-57, E 22-32) highway in a 3-story building 35 by 20 meters in size. The barracks area was located 500 meters from the city and included the following buildings:

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- a. A 2-story building which served as dispensary and hospital;
- b. A 3-story building with kitchen and dining hall on the first floor, quarters for the unit commander and supply officer on the second floor, and a depot for blankets, ammunition, etc., on the third floor; and
- c. A small building, used as troop quarters, which could accommodate 60 men.

The otryad ammunition depot was a windowless building 30 meters long, 20 meters wide and 8-10 meters high, located three or four kilometers southwest of Kula and 1.5 kilometers from the Vidin-Kula highway. Two soldiers were always on guard at this building, standing 2-hour watches.

7. Eighty to a hundred troops were stationed at Kula [ ] The otryad had the following subordinate units:

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- a. Frontier Troop Komandatura [ ] at Salash (N 43-37, E 22-32), Belogradchik Okoliya (described in paragraphs 9 to 13 below);
- b. A Frontier Troop Komandatura at Golemanovo (N 43-55, E 22-27); and
- c. A Frontier Troop reserve company, composed of engineer platoons, a heavy machine gun detachment, a light machine gun detachment, a mortar detachment, a supply detachment, a sniper detachment, and a dog detachment. The mortar detachment was composed of six or seven soldiers. The heavy machine gun detachment trained with three machine guns.

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9. Frontier Troop Komandatura [ ] was located at Salash (N 43-37, E 22-32). The unit had a 3-story building 25 meters long and 10-15 meters wide which was used as a barracks. There was also a horse stable, and a small building 4 x 5 meters in size used as a weapons depot. The dispensary and hospital of the unit were located at the end of the village. The supply depot was located three or four kilometers west of Belogradchik.

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10. Unit weapons consisted of four mortars, two Maksim Sokolov heavy machine guns, Degtyarev light machine guns, M.G. 7.92-mm. submachine guns, ordinary rifles, defensive hand grenades, and attack hand grenades.
11. Training was carried out in the "Zhrebcha Heights" area in the direction of the Yugoslav border three or four hours a day two or three times a week. There were no maneuvers in the area.
12. Thirteen or fourteen zastavas were subordinate to the Salash Komandatura. Informant knows of the location of the following two:
  - a. An unidentified zastava, located on "Babin Nos" heights eight kilometers southeast of Rakovitsa (N 43-46, E 22-29); and
  - b. The "Vurba" Zastava, located two kilometers southeast of Stakevtsi (N 43-33, E 22-34).
13. Senior Lieutenant Velikov (fnu) was the Commander of the Salash Komandatura.
14. Border Fortifications, consisting of bunkers, were located all around Kula at a distance of approximately 25 kilometers from the border. They are constructed of stones and earth and are well camouflaged. Inside are wooden beams and firing embrasures at the top.

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